

Marion Finance Committee (Remote) Meeting March 24, 2021

Remotely in attendance: Shay Assad, Peter Winters, Jay Pateakos, Karen Kevelson with Associate members Charlie Larkin, John Menzel, Bill Marvel as well as Jay McGrail, Judy Mooney, John Waterman and Codie(press).

Meeting was called to order remotely at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes of the March 15th meeting were approved.

Judy Mooney reported the overall 2.83 percent increase in the town budget, the lowest in at least five years. She noted adjustments to the positive in the school budgets including a \$4,000 decrease for Upper Cape.

The committee would go on to recommend the first seven warrant articles including the town and water and sewer budgets. Article 8 was a \$50K article taken from the water enterprise fund and Waterman disagreed with that approach saying it was a community safety issue not a water issue. McGrail would eventually take the funds for the hydrant from elsewhere but the article was recommended after conditions. Article 9 allowing for \$25,000 for tax foreclosure caused some discussion but was eventually recommended. Articles 10-17 were all recommended, including Hill/Mill sewer extensions, Ballistic vests for police, DPW replacement trucks, fire department bathroom renovation and others. Article 18 sought approval for a Community Center Storage addition that caused some discussion about the pricing, sizing and need for it. Article 18 was eventually recommended with Winters abstaining. Article 19 and 20, Sippican's only article on playground resurfacing and \$2.475M for lagoon debt was also recommended with McGrail hoping to need less of that if state funds come through. This would bring the town's debt on this lagoon project to \$9.6M according to Mooney. With the town's OPEB liability rising more than \$2M, Mooney explained how the recent retirements affected the fund. The committee would recommend the \$100,949 for Article 21 with no recommendation coming for the Stabilization article 22. Article 34-36 were read together and recommended. Bypassing non-financial articles, Article 44 was discussed about the Assessors wanting an exemption on personal property taxes under a certain amount but the committee wanted more time to dissect that one, planning to decide on the recommendation on town meeting floor. Special Town meeting article 1 for \$50,000 for the DPW snow budget and Article 2 for \$255,000 for the town hall HVAC system were both recommended.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m. The next Fincom meeting will be Wednesday, April 28, at 7 p.m. remotely. McGrail said meetings after the town meeting would likely go back to in person meetings.

Approved
3/31/21

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JPM" or similar, written below the date.